

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

UNCLAS TOKYO 2688

EXCON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, JA

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM PRODUCT EXPORTS TO JAPAN

REF: STATE 013447

1. SUMMARY. INFORMATION REQUESTED REFTEL ON IMPORTERS OF MOTOR GASOLINE AND JET FUEL/KEROSENE IS NOT AVAILABLE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE IMPORTS IN SPECIFIC CATEGORIES ARE MINIMAL. BULK OF IMPORTS HAVE BEEN

IN CATCH-ALL QTE N.E.S. UNQTE CATEGORIES, IMPORTERS OF WHICH CANNOT BE READILY IDENTIFIED. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY CONTACTED THE CUSTOMS BUREAU OF MOF, MITI, AND THE PETROLEUM ASSN OF JAPAN. OFFICIALS AT ALL THREE OFFICES TOLD US THAT WITHOUT A MASSIVE SEARCH IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO IDENTIFY THE PRODUCTS IMPORTED UNDER THE QTE N.E.S. UNQTE CATEGORY, AND THAT THE AMOUNTS INVOLVED IN THE SPECIFIC MOTOR GASOLINE AND JET FUEL CATEGORIES WERE TOO SMALL TO TRACE.

3. AS DEPT CAN VERIFY FROM CERP PUBLICATION NO. 039, QTE JAPAN'S EXPORTS AND IMPORTS - COMMODITY BY COUNTRY UNQTE, THE BULK OF THE IMPORTS REPORTED UNDER THE GENERAL CLASSIFICATIONS ON PAGE TWO OF THE TOKYO A-335, UNCLASSIFIED

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DATED OCTOBER 1, 1976, AND ON ALL PREVIOUS QUARTERLY REPORTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE REPORTING PROGRAM IN 1975, HAVE BEEN IN THE QTE N.E.S. UNQTE CATEGORY. OUR FIGURES ARE TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE COMMODITY BY COUNTRY REPORT, AND AGGREGATED QUARTERLY. THE FOLLOWING IS A RECAPITULATION OF THE FIGURES FOR JAN-DEC 1975, AND JAN-OCT 1976.

4. IN 1975, JAPAN IMPORTED FROM THE U.S. 40 KL OF AVIATION GASOLINE (SITC 332.111); ONE KL OF MOTOR GASOLINE (SITC 332.120); AND 13,753 KL OF VARIOUS KINDS OF PETROLEUM SPIRITS (SITC 332.140-190), EXCEPT TRIPROPYLENE. ALMOST ALL THE LATTER CATEGORY WAS QTE PETROLEUM SPIRITS, N.E.S. UNQTE (SITC 332.190). IN 1976, JAPAN SWITCHED TO THE BTN SYSTEM, IN WHICH 27.10-114 IS THE ONLY CATEGORY SPECIFICALLY IDENTIFIABLE AS MOTOR GASOLINE. IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. FROM JAN TO OCT 1976 (LATEST DATA AVAILABLE) WERE AGAIN ONE KL. TOTAL IMPORTS IN THE QTE OTHER PETROLEUM SPIRITS UNQTE CATEGORIES (AGAIN EXCLUDING TRIPROPYLENE) (BTN 27.10-102, 103, 105, 114 AND 119) WERE 16,419 KL, OF WHICH 15,755 WERE QTE PETROLEUM SPIRITS, N.E.S. UNQTE. (BTN 27.10-119, MOST OF WHICH WE UNDERSTAND IS CRUDE NAPHTHA.) THESE GENERAL CATEGORIES HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN OUR REPORTS IN THE BELIEF THAT THEY RESPOND TO THE REQUIREMENT (FOOTNOTE NO. 3, PAGE 3, OF STATE A-8736, NOVEMBER 1, 1974) FOR DATA ON QTE BLENDING AGENTS UNQTE. WE ARE NOT OTHERWISE ABLE TO IDENTIFY QTE BLENDING AGENTS UNQTE IN THE JAPANESE CUSTOMS CLASSIFICATIONS.

5. THE DEFINITIONAL PROBLEMS ARE SIMPLER IN THE CASE OF JET FUEL AND KEROSENE. IN 1975, JAPAN IMPORTED FROM THE U.S. 2,288 KL OF JET FUEL (SITC 332.220); 5,218 KL (ALL FROM THE U.S.) OF KEROSENE - MIXED ALKYLENE WITH A VERY LOW DEGREE UNCLASSIFIED

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OF POLYMERIZATION (SITC 332.212); AND 9,903 KL OF QTE KEROSENES, N.E.S. UNQTE (SITC 332.219). IN THE JNAURY TO OCTOBER PERIOD OF 1976, JET FUEL (BTN 27.10-122) IMPORTS FROM THE U.S. WERE 1,206 KL; QTE KEROSENE, OLEFINES UNQTE (BTN 27.10-123) WERE 1,701 KL, (AGAIN ALL FROM THE U.S.); AND QTE KEROSENES, N.E.S. UNQTE (BTN 27.10-129) WERE 16,668 KL FROM THE U.S.

6. THE POSITION OF THE JAPANESE OFFICIALS CONCERNED REGARDING THE NEAR IMPOSSIBILITY OF TRACING THE IMPORTERS OF THESE PRODUCTS SEEMS REASONABLE, GIVEN THE MINISCULE AMOUNTS INVOLVED. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPORT AS REQUIRED, BUT SINCE THE INFORMATION WE PROVIDED IS ALREADY AVAILABLE IN WASHINGTON THROUGH THE CERP PUBLICATION PROGRAM, IT OCCURS TO US THAT TOKYO MIGHT BE EXEMPTED FROM THIS CERP REPORTING REQUIREMENT. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/38371fbf-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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